THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A Committee under the the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Sanjeeva Reddy has been constituted to study the prospects of establishing a Workers' Technical University which could help address the gap between demand and supply of technically qualified personnel.

Programme to boost primary education

1388. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have evolved any official programme to boost primary education in the remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Mid-day Meal (MDM) programmes are being implemented by the Central Government in partnership with the States to promote primary education in all parts of the country. The SSA is a comprehensive programme to address universal access, retention and quality of lerarning of children in the 6-14 years age group. The MDM provides for cooked midday meals to children in schools, EGS & AIE centres at the primary level.

Children under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1389. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where children are getting elementrary education under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan successfully;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme has not been implemented effectively in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and